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Letter dated 24 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 July 2003, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Umit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 24 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the self-explanatory letter dated 24 July 2003, addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

In paragraph 8 of your report on United Nations operations in Cyprus dated 27 May 2003, you state that the Greek Cypriot side has reiterated the intention to remove landmines in the United Nations buffer zone.

I have the honour to confirm that the military authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are prepared to discuss with the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) the issue of demining in Nicosia and its close vicinity. The implementation of military confidence-building measures has been a long-standing wish to UNFICYP in order to reduce tension between the two sides.

No doubt, while reinforcing the positive climate that has been created as a result of the series of initiatives we have undertaken since 23 April 2003 and providing a more secure environment for crossings between the two sides, the implementation of this confidence-building measure would contribute to efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement.

I hope that this time the Greek Cypriot side will not fail to reciprocate in response to our initiative.

(*Signed*) Rauf R. **Denktaş**
President